# TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT DATA SHEET



# Remote Operated Vehicle Dry Ice Pellet Decontamination System



Developer: Oceaneering Technologies, Inc. Contract Number: DE-AC21-93MC30165

**Crosscutting Area: Robotics** 

Deactivation & Decommissioning \_ FOCUS AREA

### **Problem:**

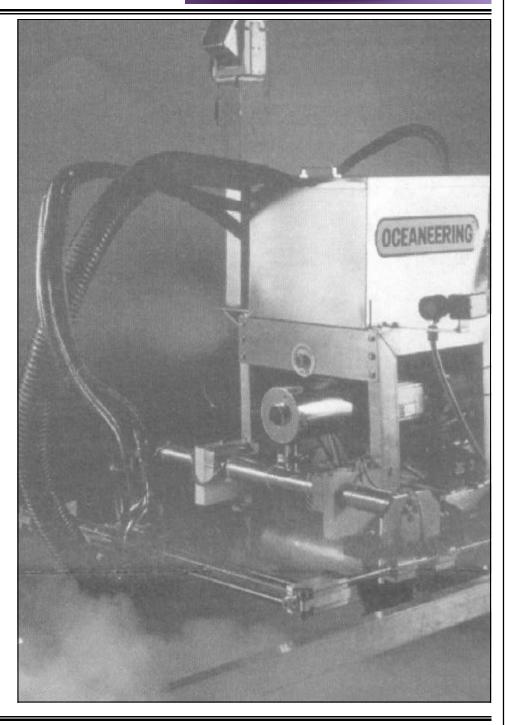
Concrete surface contamination inside buildings is one of the most serious problems at Department of (DOE) facilities. Energy Contamination typically consists of various radionuclides, heavy metals, and organic deposits resulting from leaks and spills. New technologies are required to remove concrete surface contamination in order that buildings can be reused, or, if they are to be dismantled, to permit disposal of the majority of the concrete as non-hazardous, nonradioactive waste.

## **Solution:**

The Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV) Dry Ice (CO<sub>2</sub>) Pellet Blasting System (ROVCO<sub>2</sub>) has the potential to significantly reduce worker exposure, waste volume, and costs. This concrete decontamination system integrates the demonstrated technologies of remote operation of vehicles and dry ice blasting.

### **Benefits:**

► Minimization of non-hazardous material removed and resulting decrease in volume containing hazardous material





OST Reference Number: 0091 Federal Energy Technology Center





- Elimination of process waste resulting from the blasting media
- ► Reduction of personnel-protection requirements
- ► Reduction of shift manpower requirements
- ► Reduction in capital-equipment costs and disposal costs

# **Technology:**

The ROVCO<sub>2</sub> is an integration of a Remotec remote operated vehicle, a Cryogenesis CO<sub>2</sub> blasting unit, a Vacpac HEPA filter system, and Oceaneering's control system and COYOTEE manipulator. manipulator was developed for sweeping the blasting workhead over flat floor surfaces. The control system uses the vehicle's camera and telemetry system and Oceaneering's operator interface to provide functional automation decontamination.

The ROV is linked by a tether and a tether management system to the system containment van. The other end of the tether is connected to a Cryogenesis CO<sub>2</sub> pellet and nitrogen gas supply, a HEPA filtration system, a power supply, and the control unit. The entire system is packaged to be suitable for radioactive material transport and storage.

# **Project Conclusion:**

The final System Productivity Tests for ROVCO<sub>2</sub> system were conducted at Florida International University (FIU) in March 1998. During the tests, approximately 15 ft<sup>2</sup> of

concrete floor was CO<sub>2</sub>-blasted to determine the blasting rate for epoxy and paint and to obtain system reliability data.

The productivity of the ROVCO<sub>2</sub> depended significantly on the required level of decontamination and the type of coating covering the contamination. The system was able to achieve productivity rates of 94 ft<sup>2</sup>/hr (for 98 percent removal) on the top coat of paint placed on the epoxy, but a rate of only 2 ft<sup>2</sup>/hr (for 85-100 percent removal) on the underlying epoxy. These tests show that CO<sub>2</sub> blasting is not efficient at removing tough coatings; however, the system was effective at removing sealant type coatings and smearable contamination. This may be more cost effective, depending on the level of decontamination required.

### **Contacts:**

Oceaneering Technologies Inc., through its Research and Development Division, is engaged in product improvement and innovative product development. For information on this project, the contractor contact is:

Principal Investigator: Mr. Andrew M. Resnick Oceaneering Technologies, Inc. 501 Prince Georges Boulevard Upper Marlboro, MD 20774 Phone: (301) 249-3300

Fax: (301) 249-4022

E-mail:

resnick@adtech.oceaneering.com

DOE's Federal Energy Technology Center supports the Environmental Management - Office of Science and Technology by contracting the





research and development of new technologies for waste site characterization and cleanup. For information regarding this project, the DOE contact is:

DOE Project Manager: Mr. Ronald K. Staubly Federal Energy Technology Center 3610 Collins Ferry Road P.O. Box 880 Morgantown, WV 26507-0880

Phone: (304) 285-4991 Fax: (304) 285-4403

E-mail: rstaub@fetc.doe.gov

